



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**



LOVE IN ACTION

A Principle of Beacons of Light

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

The heat is on!

Welcome to July! We made it through a scorching June, and now we're ready for a wonderful heart of summer.

We pray for all those who are being affected by climate change, from the intense heat to the draughts to the earlier and more powerful hurricanes. We also pray for all those affected by the war and violence that is happening across the globe.

The election season continues on, and I think we can all agree that there's a LOT of uncertainty. It's tough to read and hear all of the vitriolic, hate-filled language, and we as the Church have a moral obligation to address this

reality, seeking always for understanding, compassion, and peace (while of course remaining true to our Catholic values).

As we previously shared, we've gathered our election year (and beyond) work under one project name - '[Our Eucharistic Mission in a Polarized World](#).' You'll find information below about our series with Fr. Aaron Wessman (*next session is on Wed. 7/24 at 7:00pm at St. Michael in Sharonville*), the re-launch of iVoteCatholic, and other resources.

Hopefully you're all aware that the eastern branch of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage is in our archdiocese right now. Check out <https://catholicaoc.org/jesus-is-here> for information on all of the events, including the main event downtown on Sat. July 6; [see below](#) for more information.

It is with heavy hearts that we share about the death of Jerry Freewalt, the Director of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Columbus. He was a faithful and passionate man, loved and respected by many, and a wonderful ally in the work for life, justice, and peace. We pray for Jerry's soul and his family. (You can find his obituary [here](#).)

One other important date to note this month: July 14 is the Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint and the patron saint (along w/ St. Francis) of the environment and ecology (as well as the patroness of people in exile and Native Americans). You can [learn more about her here](#).

We humbly ask that you continue to pray for us. This continues to be an exciting and challenging year, and your prayers - and engagement! - will make our success possible. God help us!

If there's anything that we can do to support the work happening in your community, please let us know. We're trying to be more present to families of parishes, especially during the Beacons of Light process, and we'd love to (re)connect with you and work to build up God's kingdom of peace, justice, and kinship in your corner of the kingdom.

We will continue to send out Regional Updates with time-sensitive reminders and Action Alerts encouraging everyone to bring their voice and power to bear on important issues.

We wish you a wonderful rest of your month and a great celebration of the 4th, and - as always - we look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to stand up for justice, solidarity, and equity.

Peace and all good,

Tammie, Sr. Christine, Jill, Glen, & Andrew



Our Eucharistic Mission in a Polarized World

In January of 2012, Pope Benedict XVI stated that "The Church's witness, then, is of its nature public: she seeks to convince by proposing rational arguments in the public square. The legitimate separation of Church and State cannot be taken to mean that the Church must be silent on certain issues, nor that the State may choose not to engage, or be engaged by, the voices of committed believers in determining the values which will shape the future of the nation."

In September of 2013, Pope Francis emphasized this sentiment: "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

The US Catholic Bishops, in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, reinforces this call: "The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person." (#1913-1915)" (#13)

As we can see above, both on the global and national level we are called to engage in the political sphere and to do so guided by our faith and acting with grace and mercy. In the coming year (and beyond), we will face tremendous tumult and myriad challenges when it comes to politics, and our office will do our best to support you in this work by offering resources and guidance. To better highlight this support, we will be sharing these resources under the theme [Our Eucharistic Mission in a Polarized World](#). We invite you to engage with these resources and share them within your family of parishes and broader community.

To access any of these resources - current and forthcoming - please visit www.catholicaoc.org/faithfulcitizenship.

The Church's Mission in a Polarized World

The first two parts of our six-part series featuring Fr. Aaron Wessman, PhD, Glenmary Home Missioners went wonderfully. Thanks for all who attended in person and virtually! Fr. Aaron wrote a book titled [The Church's Mission in a Polarized World](#), and over the course of the series he will be exploring six themes in the book and connecting them to the blessed sacrament. You can definitely attend the next session(s) even if you missed the first session (or two).

All events will be hybrid - offered both in person and streamed over Zoom.

If possible, we'd love to have as many people as possible join us in person so we can have a more engaging Q&A and discussion at the conclusion of the talks.

<https://zoom.us/j/99177580089> | Meeting ID: 991 7758 0089 | Dial in: 312 626 6799

Please contact [Jill](#) with any questions about the series.

[Download the flyer here](#). Please share it far and wide!

The recordings of the talks can be found [here](#).

OUR EUCHARISTIC MISSION IN A POLARIZED WORLD

A series with Fr. Aaron Wessman, Glenmary Home Missioners, based off his book [The Church's Mission in a Polarized World](#). Christ heals the divisions in our churches, our communities, and among our family, especially along political lines.

Join us in person or online (link at the bottom)

All presentations will be recorded and found here: <https://tinyurl.com/434yh3bn>

THURS, MAY 23
7:00 PM

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains, Synod Hall

THE EUCHARIST: AN
ANTIDOTE TO POLARIZATION

THURS, JUNE 20
7:00 PM

Bellarmino Chapel, Xavier University

AN OVERVIEW OF
POLARIZATION IN THE U.S.

In collaboration with Xavier University and Bellarmine Chapel

WED, JULY 24
AFTER 7PM MASS

St. Michael, Spinner Ave, Sharonville

POLARIZED REPUGNANCE OR
EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE

In collaboration with the Liturgy Office

THURS, AUG 8
7:00 PM

St. Bernard, Derby Ave, Cincinnati

POLARIZED EXCLUSION OR
EUCHARISTIC FELLOWSHIP

In collaboration with the Respect Life Office

WED, SEPT. 11
7:00 PM

Immaculate Conception, S Smithville Rd, Dayton

POLARIZED DOMINATION OR
EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

THURS, OCT. 24
7:00 PM

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Hamilton Mason Rd, Liberty Township

POLARIZED DESPAIR OR
EUCHARISTIC HOPE

In collaboration with the Mission Office and Glenmary Home Missioners



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE

For more on this series and Faithful Citizenship:
www.catholicaoc.org/faithfulcitizenship

LIVESTREAM LINK at
<https://zoom.us/j/99177580089>

Meeting ID: 991 7758 0089

Dial in: 312 626 6799



iVoteCatholic

iVoteCatholic is back!!

We again find ourselves in an election year where the country is deeply divided and unable to find common ground, and neither party (nor any candidate) fully represents

our Catholic commitment to life and dignity.

Thankfully, we don't have to rely on a party platform to tell us how to vote; in fact, we aren't called to vote Democrat or Republican. We are called to vote **Catholic**, and the archdiocese has a resource to help you do that: iVoteCatholic.org. On this website, you'll find information about key issues – the life and dignity of the human person, care for creation, love for people who are poor and vulnerable, etc. – as well as resources to use in liturgies, meetings, classrooms, and homes.

Check out iVoteCatholic.org and help yourself and your community face the coming election with faith, compassion, and a commitment to loving your neighbors.

*If you have any questions, please contact **Andrew**.*



The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati through July 8. Along the route, several of our parishes will be offering special opportunities for prayer and fellowship. On Saturday, July 6, Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Cincinnati to a

family-friendly Eucharistic Festival (called "Jesus Is Here") on Fountain Square featuring prayer, food, games and music. All Catholics are invited!

Please plan to participate.

And bring your family and friends! For complete information, go to www.JesusIsHere2024.org.



Farm Bill

In late May, the USCCB sent [a letter to Congress](#) - co-signed by multiple agencies - on the Farm Bill, both supporting some aspects and advocating for change in others. The Farm Bill touches on a number of areas, including access to food, support for farmers, and foreign aid. It is a massive bill, renewed every five years, that touches the lives of tens of millions of people.

We STRONGLY encourage you to reach out to your elected officials and encourage them to keep the different components of the Farm Bill in line with our commitment to the dignity of all people, special care for the poor, the dignity of work, care for creation, and solidarity with sisters and brothers around the world.

For greater accessibility, Pat Hornschemeier, leader of our Southeast Rural Life conference, has drafted a consolidated version of the USCCB's letter. You can [download the letter here](#). Please edit the letter as you see fit, sign it, and send it to your elected officials. Share the letter with your networks as well and encourage them to send letters as well.

You can also take action by signing this [Action Alert](#) from the USCCB that specifically asks Congress to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill.

For additional resources, please check out the materials from Bread for the World, one of our strong partners in Farm Bill advocacy.

[Bread Statement on House and Senate Farm Bill Frameworks - Bread for the World.](#)

[Bread Statement on House Farm Bill - Bread for the World](#)



7th Annual Festival of Faiths

On **Sunday, August 25**, the 7th annual Cincinnati Festival of Faiths will be held at the **Cintas Center on XU's campus from 12-5pm**. EquaSion, one of Cincinnati's preeminent interfaith organizations, hosts this powerful event which is the city's largest interfaith celebration. It's a gathering of 34 faith traditions and 13 world religions from the Greater Cincinnati area. It's an exhibition with great food and entertainment, and admission is free. For more information, check out <https://equasion.org/about-the-festival-2/>.

[Click here for information on the Sacred Connections program.](#)

(Sr. Christine, Andrew, and Glen at the 2023 Festival of Faiths.)



What We Have Seen and Heard - 40th Anniversary of the Pastoral Letter Fr. Clarence Rivers - 20th Anniversary of his Death

In the fall of 2024, two important anniversaries will highlight the great contributions of African American Catholics in the Church. We join the African American Pastoral Office in three events honoring these anniversaries.

On Monday, September 9 - The Feast of St. Peter Claver - Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 7:00pm to honor the 40th anniversary of the pastoral by the 10 Black Catholic U.S. bishops.

On Friday & Saturday, November 22 & 23, an academic symposium titled, Seeking for a City, will be held at Curran Place on the campus of the University of Dayton with session.

On Sunday, November 24 - The Feast of Christ the King - Cardinal Wilton Gregory will celebrate mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 11:00am to honor the 20th anniversary of Fr. Clarence Rivers passing.

For more information, check out the [website](#). For questions, contact [Deacon Royce Winters](#).



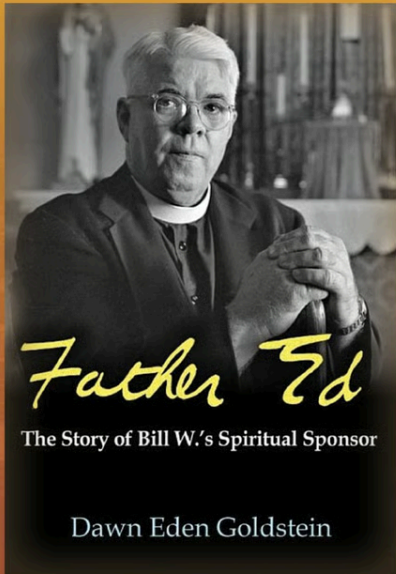
A Vision for Love in Action: Becoming Communities of Salt & Light

Is your parish ready to take your visioning for Love in Action to the next level? The Department of Life, Dignity, & Charity is offering a 3-part series Love in Action opportunity to help your parish family Love in Action team understand why this vision is important, how this vision has developed in the history of the Church, what are the larger and small local organizations with which your parish can cooperate, and how to build on what you already have going on in your parishes (along with your resources of time, talent, and treasure) to create a growing vision of Love in Action in your parish family. This series is only offered on the deanery level so we invite you to ask your pastor if he is interested in bringing this series to your deanery and how he might work with the other pastors and families in his

deanery to bring it to fruition. If you would like more information about the series, please contact Mary Anne Bressler at mbressler@ccswoh.org.



SPECIAL EVENT DURING EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2024



THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

4:00 - 5:30 PM

**Hyatt Regency
Indianapolis**

THEORY ROOM
1 South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**REGISTRATION
STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED**



Join author Dawn Eden Goldstein for a presentation on the Catholic priest whose influence helped establish Alcoholics Anonymous.



Dawn Eden Goldstein, SThD

Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Bill Wilson called Father Edward Dowling, SJ, "the greatest and most gentle soul to walk this planet."

Father Ed's guidance transformed Bill's life and deepened the spirituality of the twelve-step movement. But despite his vital role in A.A. history,

Dowling's own story has never been told—until now. Dawn Eden Goldstein, author of the new biography *Father Ed*, shares about the life and message of this remarkable Jesuit who came to devote his ministry to helping people with problems.

Complimentary coffee and cookies



Copies of *Father Ed* will be available for purchase/signing

Co-Sponsored by:



Advocacy Opportunities

The Catholic Conference of Ohio recently shared updates on several pieces of legislation being considered in Columbus. Please consider reaching out to your elected officials and letting them know your support or opposition to these bills.

Governor DeWine Signs HB 50 into Law

House Bill 50 (sponsored by State Representatives Latyna Humphrey (D-Columbus) and Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati)), which creates a certificate of qualification for housing (CQH) for the formerly incarcerated, was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine. The Catholic Conference of Ohio supported HB 50, noting that "Restoration demands that we respond to the victims of crime with care and compassion, but the full administration of justice is impossible unless we also attend to the dignity of those returning from prison

CCO Opposes HB 451 on Remittance Transfer Fee

The Catholic Conference of Ohio opposed House Bill 451 in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 451 would levy a remittance transfer fee on money transmissions to a person outside the United States. Within the testimony, CCO notes that "HB 451 puts onerous restrictions on legal residents of Ohio and threatens their support of loved ones stuck in cycles of poverty and violence. ...these small remittances of \$200 to \$300 are the difference between survival and starvation." Ohio residents should not need to pay an additional fee for fulfilling a Christian obligation to provide charitable resources to people in other countries. [Click here to view the full testimony >](#)

CCO Supports SB 242, Expanding the Charitable Use Property Tax Exemption

The Catholic Conference of Ohio testified in support of Senate Bill 242 (sponsored by State Senator Sandra O'Brien (R-Ashtabula)) to expand the charitable use property tax exemption. "This change more faithfully reflects the purpose of existing property tax policies and incentivizes wider cooperation between religious and charitable institutions, including those affiliated with the Catholic Church and other faith traditions." [Click here to view the full testimony >](#)

HB 7, the Strong Foundations Act, Passes the House

House Bill 7, the Strong Foundations Act (sponsored by State Representatives Andrea White (R-Kettering) and Latyna Humphrey (D-Columbus)), a CCO-supported bill, passed the Ohio House of Representatives and will now go to the Ohio Senate. HB 7 supports Ohio mothers and babies in their first one thousand days to address maternal and infant mortality and to improve health, developmental, and learning outcomes

SB 198 Reported Out of Committee

CCO supported Senate Bill 198 (sponsored by Senators George Lang (R-West Chester) and Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville)), which provides inmates with state identification cards and documentation upon their release relating to work experience, education, and trade

skills passed out of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Senate Committee. It will now go to the Ohio Senate floor for a vote.

End the Death Penalty in Ohio

The time is NOW to change state law.

Make your voice heard and urge your state legislators to support [Senate Bill 101](#) and [House Bill 259](#) to abolish the death penalty in Ohio. We cannot solve violence with more violence or obtain justice via the state of Ohio directly and intentionally killing a defenseless human life.

[Action Alert for Senate Bill 101](#)

[Action Alert for House Bill 259](#)

Additional Advocacy Help Needed in Butler and Warren Counties

If you live in Butler or Warren county, we especially need your help. We're looking for additional advocates to reach out the elected officials in those areas as they can play an important role in moving this forward. Please let [Andrew](#) know if you're able to help in this way (or even just make sure you complete the advocacy alerts above for your rep and senator).

Help Communities Affected by Climate Change

Urge Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

[Urge Congress](#) to address the impact of climate change by providing robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

Urge the Senate to Strengthen the Child Tax Credit

Every year, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) lifts millions of American families out of poverty and helps them live according to their dignity and with greater economic security. While the USCCB has long supported the CTC, the current credit must be improved because it excludes many of the poorest children. [Add your voice here.](#)

Stand in Solidarity with our Afghan Neighbors

Tens of thousands of Afghan nationals have now been resettled in communities across the United States, many of whom served alongside U.S. servicemembers. They are in need of a legal pathway to real and lasting safety. [Add your voice here.](#)

Urge Congress to Safeguard Children in Need and Ensure Communities Have Access to Religious Workers

The bill would relieve the backlog currently confronting special immigrant juveniles by exempting them from the annual caps for the employment-based, fourth preference (EB-4) visa. This would ensure that abused, neglected, or abandoned youth who are deemed eligible for relief by state courts no longer need to compete with adults relying on the same category of visas. It would also increase the availability of EB-4 visas for religious workers who serve communities across the nation. [Add your voice here.](#)

Urge Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

[Urge Congress](#) to address the impact of climate change by providing robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.



From the Respect Life Office

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to Restrict Abortion Pill Access

On June 13, the Supreme Court issued their much-anticipated ruling on the legal standing of several issues surrounding the FDA's procedures on the availability of the abortion pill drug, mifepristone. They rejected the challenge, maintaining the status quo on abortion pill access in this country.

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the doctors who presented the case simply lacked legal standing to bring the case forward. Writing for the court, Justice Kavanaugh

cited "Under Article III of the Constitution, a plaintiff's desire to make a drug less available *for others* does not establish standing to sue. Nor do the plaintiffs' other standing theories suffice. Therefore, the plaintiffs lack standing to challenge FDA's actions." Read the entire ruling [HERE](#).

The Supreme Court did not rule on any of the arguments related to whether the FDA acted properly in its initial approval of the drug in 2000, or the relaxed rules issued in 2016 and 2021. I wrote more about those regulations in my March 2024 blog [HERE](#), but in brief, this means that mifepristone is still available for use up to 10 weeks (increased from the initial approval of only 7 weeks), the number of visits required to obtain the drug is still only 1 virtual visit (the initial requirement was 3 in-person visits, including a follow-up), and the health care provider who prescribes the drug does not have to be a licensed physician. States still retain the right to impose further restrictions than those federal regulations, and in Ohio, one does still have to have an in-person visit to obtain the abortion pills legally. Of course, unrelated to the Supreme Court ruling, that current restriction in Ohio could some day be in jeopardy with the passing of Issue 1 last year.

Erin Hawley, one of the attorneys who brought forward the lawsuit, said in a statement that they were "disappointed" with the decision. "We will continue to advocate for women and work to restore commonsense safeguards for abortion drugs – like an initial office visit to screen for ectopic pregnancies," she said. She added that she is hopeful other cases with different arguments for standing could still make it to the Supreme Court.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed disappointment in the ruling, saying, "The sadness of a woman just being alone, unaccompanied – I don't think people are aware of the harmful effects. It's because we love women that we're concerned that this pill remains so accessible."

The Catholic Church remains committed to helping pregnant women in difficult circumstances. Check out the [WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED](#) website and get a group started in your parish family.



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Lisa Averion, Associate Director of Office for Persons with Disabilities

Blindness & Faith

I recently reached out to Xavier Society for the Blind to prepare for the upcoming events for **Jesus is Here!** As the excitement builds, I recall the story of Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, who was part of a crowd following Jesus on His way to Jerusalem as He left Jericho. Bartimaeus cried out, "Jesus, Son of David. Take pity on me!" (Mk 10:47). The crowd told Bartimaeus to be quiet; however, he cried all the louder and Jesus asked him what he wanted. He asked for his sight; Jesus responded, "Your faith has made you well." The Eucharistic procession will be in Archdiocese of Cincinnati the first week of July and will be stopping by host parishes along the way. It will be an event to remember for those with sight and the blind.

Do you have community members who have **low vision** or are blind? In 2009, my oldest son was diagnosed with **Stargardt's Disease** and in 2011 my daughter and younger son were diagnosed, also. Advocating for large print items for school and events has always been a priority. Sometimes this can be overlooked by those who have perfect vision. We live in a seeing and hearing world and I challenge each of you to support members of your community by offering large print materials and braille for the blind. If you have someone in your parish community that is blind, you can request to have programs printed in braille for free from **Xavier Society for the Blind**.

Xavier "Free Publication" Society was founded in 1900. Inspired by a blind teacher of blind children, Margaret Coffey, and Fr. Joseph Stadelman, SJ. Xavier Society mission states, *To provide the Word of God, and the best of Roman Catholic teaching and literature, spiritual and inspirational material, to blind or visually impaired persons of any faith in whatever format best meets their needs at no charge and to continually explore ways to make that material more accessible and available to the widest possible audience of those in need.*

On July 6th at the **Jesus is Here!** Mass at St. Peter in Chains, large print programs will be available. One member of the Blind Community who plans to attend will have access to a braille program. If you or someone you know has low vision or are blind, please contact, Lisa Averion laverion@catholicaoc.org to learn more about the free resources offered by Xavier Society for the Blind.



Who We Are

Andrew Musgrave

Cincinnati | Director

Jill Foster

Dayton | Regional Director

Glen Glenn

Program Coordinator | CRS, CCHD

Tammie Mers

Administrative Assistant

Sr. Christine Pratt

Eastern Area Coordinator

csa@catholicaoc.org | 513-263-6690

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action>

Follow us on social media!

X (TWITTER)

[@AoCincinnatiCsa](https://twitter.com/AoCincinnatiCsa)

YOUTUBE

[@CatholicSocialAction](https://www.youtube.com/@CatholicSocialAction)

INSTAGRAM

[@aocincinnati_csa](https://www.instagram.com/aocincinnati_csa)

FACEBOOK

[csacinci](https://www.facebook.com/csacinci)



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**

Catholic Social Action Office | 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202, United States